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Community Arts Partnership Act: Correspondence (1994): Correspondence 25

Bonnie Brooks

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Dance/USA

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Bonnie Brooks
Executive Director

August 8, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Russell Building Room 335
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

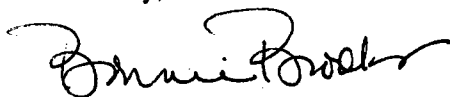
Dance/USA, the national service organization for nonprofit, professional dance representing over 160 dance companies, service organizations and presenters of dance, applauds your leadership efforts to include the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act (ESEA, S.1513). Unfortunately, funding for this exciting new program has been placed in certain jeopardy by a trigger mechanism which would eliminate funding for the initiative unless the NEA, NEH and IMS receive FY95 funding at their FY94 levels. Since both the House and Senate have already approved cuts to the NEA's FY95 appropriations, the trigger will almost certainly be activated. We urge you to eliminate the trigger mechanism during conference.

As convener of the National Task Force on Dance Education, Dance/USA is keenly aware of the significance and importance of educational activities in the lives of all young Americans. Dance is a powerful means of communicating which transcends linguistic and socio-economic boundaries.

Renowned companies such as the Boston Ballet have developed innovative programs with local schools. Boston Ballet's CITYDANCE program was launched with the Boston and Lynn public schools to forge a new and exciting way for a greater cross-section of the city's population to access ballet. During the school day, approximately 600 students take class at the company's studios on a regular basis. An active parent organization extends the program's impact and the support structure for participating students.

However, additional funding is critical to support these efforts. This funding might be available through the Cultural Partnerships for At-Risk Children and Youth program. Please preserve this important new program and remove the trigger mechanism.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Brooks
Executive Director